

## S W A

- How soon doth man decay!
- When cloths are taken from a chest of sweets,  
To swaddle infants, whose young breaths but mid day  
Scarce knows the way; *Shak. Tit. And.*
- Those cloths are little winding sheets,  
Which do confign and fend them unto death. *Herbert.*
- They swaddled me up in my night-gown with long pieces of  
linen, 'till they had wrapt me in about an hundred yards of  
fwathe. *Addison.*
2. To beat; to cudgel. A low ludicrous word.  
Great on the bench, great in the saddle,  
That could as well bind o'er as swaddle. *Hindibras.*
- SWADDLE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Cloaths bound round the  
body.  
I begged them to uncase me: no, no, say they; and upon  
that carried me to one of their houses, and put me to bed in  
all my swaddles. *Addison.*
- SWADDLINGBAND. *n. f.* [from *swaddle*.] Cloth wrapped  
round a new-born child.  
From thence a fairy thee unwitting rest,  
There as thou slept'st in tender swaddlingband,  
And her base elfin brood, there for thee left,  
Such men do changelings call, do changed by fairies theft. *Fairy Queen.*
- That great baby you see there is not yet out of his swaddling-  
band. *Shak. Hamlet.*
- The swaddlingbands were purple, wrought with gold. *Dryd.*
- TO SWAG. *v. n.* [from *swag*, Saxon; *swagga*, Islandick.] To  
sink down by its weight; to lay heavy.  
They are more apt, in swagging down, to pierce with their  
points, than in the jacent posture, and crevice the wall. *Hart.*
- Being a tall fish, and with his sides much compressed, he  
hath a long fin upon his back, and another answering to it on  
his belly; by which he is the better kept upright, or from  
swagging on his sides. *Grew.*
- TO SWAGE. *v. a.* [from *affuage*.] To ease; to soften; to mi-  
tigate.  
Apt words have pow'r to swage  
The tumours of a troubled mind,  
And are as balm to fester'd wounds. *Milton.*
- Nor wanting pow'r to mitigate and swage,  
With solemn touches, troubled thoughts, and chafe  
Anguish, and doubt, and fear from mortal minds. *Milton.*
- I will love thee,  
Though my distracted senses should forsake me,  
I'd find some intervals, when my poor heart  
Should swage itself, and be let loose to thine. *Orway.*
- TO SWAGGER. *v. n.* [from *swagger*, Dutch, to make a noise;  
Saxon.] To bluster; to bully; to be turbulently and  
impudently proud and insolent.  
Drunk? squabble? swagger? and discourse fullian with  
one's own shadow? Oh thou invincible spirit of wine! *Shak.*
- 'Tis the gage of one that I should fight withal, if he be  
alive; a rascal that swaggers'd with me last night. *Shak.*
- Of a terrible oath, with a swaggering accent sharply twang'd  
off, gives manhood more approbation than proof itself. *Shak.*
- The lesser size of mortals love to swagger for opinions, and  
to boast infallibility of knowledge. *Glau. Scip.*
- Many such asses in the world huff, look big, stare, dress,  
cock, and swagger at the same noisy rate. *L'Estrange.*
- He chuck'd,  
And scarcely deign'd to set a foot to ground,  
But swaggers'd like a lord. *Dryden.*
- Confidence, how weakly soever founded, hath some effect  
upon the ignorant, who think there is something more than  
ordinary in a swaggering man that talks of nothing but de-  
monstration. *Tillotson.*
- To be great, is not to be starched, and formal, and superci-  
lous; to swagger at our footmen, and browbeat our infe-  
riors. *Cellier on Pride.*
- What a pleasure is it to be victorious in a cause? to swag-  
ger at the bar? for a lawyer I was born, and a lawyer I will  
be. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*
- SWAGGERER. *n. f.* [from *swagger*.] A blusterer; a bully; a  
turbulent noisy fellow.  
He's no swaggerer, hostess; a tame cheater: you may stroke  
him as gently as a puppy greyhound. *Shak. Henry IV.*
- SWAGGY. *adj.* [from *swag*.] Dependent by its weight.  
The beaver is called animal ventricosum, from his swaggy  
and prominent belly. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- SWAIN. *n. f.* [from *swain*, Saxon and Runick.]  
1. A young man.  
That good knight would not so nigh repair,  
Himself estranging from their joyance vain,  
Whose fellowship seem'd far unfit for warlike swain. *F. 2.*
2. A country servant employed in husbandry.  
It were a happy life  
To be no better than a homely swain. *Shak. Henry VI.*
3. A pastoral youth.  
Blest swains! whose nymphs in ev'ry grace excel;  
Blest nymphs! whose swains those graces sing to well. *Pope.*

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- SWAINMOTE. *n. f.* [from *swainmote*, law Lat.] A court touching  
matters of the forest, kept by the charter of the forest three  
times in the year. This court of swainmote is as incident to a forest,  
as the court of piepowder is to a fair. The swainmote is a  
court of freeholders within the forest. *Cowsl.*
- TO SWALE. *v. a.* [from *swale*, Saxon, to kindle.] To waite or  
To SWEAL. *v. a.* blaze away; to melt: as, the candle swales.  
SWALLET. *n. f.* Among the tin-miners, water breaking in  
upon the miners at their work. *Bailey.*
- SWALLOW. *n. f.* [from *swale*, Saxon.] A small bird of pas-  
sage, or, as some say, a bird that lies hid and sleeps in the  
winter.  
The swallow follows not Summer more willingly than we  
your lordship. *Shak. Timon of Athens.*
- Daffodils,  
That come before the swallow dars, *Shak. Timon of Athens.*
- The swallows make use of celandine, and the linner of  
euphrasia. *Mor.*
- When swallows fleet foat high and sport in air,  
He told us that the welkin would be clear. *Gay.*
- The swallow swoops  
The slimy pool, to build his hanging house  
Intent. *Thomson's Spring.*
- TO SWALLOW. *v. a.* [from *swalgen*, Dutch.]  
1. To take down the throat.  
I swallow down my spite. *Job vii. 19.*
- If little faults  
Shall not be wink'd at, how shall we stretch our eye,  
Whose capital crimes chew'd swallows'd, and digested,  
Appear before us? *Shak. Henry V.*
- Men are, at a venture, of the religion of the country; and  
must therefore swallow down opinions, as silly people do em-  
piricks pills, and have nothing to do but believe that they will  
do the cure. *Lake.*
2. To receive without examination.  
Consider and judge of it as a matter of reason, and not  
swallow it without examination as a matter of faith. *Lake.*
3. To engross; to appropriate.  
Far be it from me, that I should swallow up or destroy. *2 Sa.*
- Homer excels all the inventors of other arts in this, that he  
has swallow'd up the honour of those who succeeded him. *Pope.*
4. To absorb; to take in; to sink in any abyss; to engulf.  
Though you untie the winds, and let them fight  
Against the churches, though the yelty waves  
Confound and swallow navigation up. *Shak. Tit. And.*
- I may be pluck'd into the swallowing womb  
Of this deep pit, poor Bassianus' grave. *Shak. Tit. And.*
- Death is swallow'd up in victory. *1 Cor. xv. 54.*
- If the earth open her mouth and swallow them up, ye shall  
understand that these men have provoked the Lord. *Nun. xvi.*
- In bogs swallow'd up and lost.  
He hid many things from us, not that they would swallow  
up our understanding, but divert our attention from what is  
more important. *Decay of Piety.*
- Nature would abhor  
To be forced back again upon herself,  
And like a whirlpool swallow her own streams. *Dryden and Lee's Oedipus.*
- Should not the sad occasion swallow up  
My other cares, and draw them all into it? *Addison.*
- Cities overturn'd,  
And late at night in swallowing earthquake sunk. *Thomson.*
5. To devour; to destroy.  
The necessary provision for life swallow'd the greatest part  
of their time. *Lake.*
- Corruption swallow'd what the liberal hand  
Of bounty scatter'd. *Thomson's Autumn.*
6. To be lost in any thing; to be given up.  
The priest and the prophet are swallow'd up of wine. *If.*
- SWALLOW. *n. f.* [from the verb.] The throat; voracity.  
Had this man of merit and mortification been called to ac-  
count for his ungodly swallow'd, in gorging down the estates of  
helpless widows and orphans, he would have told them that it  
was all for charitable uses. *South.*
- SWALLOWTAIL. *n. f.* A species of willow.  
The shining willow they call swallowtail, because of the  
pleasure of the leaf. *Bacon's Natural History.*
- SWALLOWWORT. *n. f.* A plant.  
SWAMP. The preterite of swim.  
SWAMP. *n. f.* [from *swamm*, Gothick; *swan*, Saxon; *swamm*,  
Islandick; *swamme*, Dutch; *swamp*, Danish; *swamp*, Swedish.]  
A marsh; a bog; a fen.  
SWAMPY. *adj.* [from *swamp*.] Boggy; fenny. *Thomson.*
- Swampy fens breathe destructive myriads.  
The swan is a large water-fowl, that has a long and very  
straight neck, and is very white, excepting when it is young.  
Its legs and feet are black, as is its bill, which is like that of  
a goose, but something rounder, and a little hooked at the  
lower end of it: the two sides below its eyes are black and  
shining like ebony. Swans use wings like sails, which catch  
the wind, so that they are driven along in the water. *Feet*

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- feed upon herbs and some sort of grain like a goose, and some  
are said to have lived three hundred years. There is a species  
of swans with the feathers of their heads, towards the breast,  
marked at the ends with a gold colour inclining to red. The  
swan is reckoned by Moses among the unclean creatures; but  
it was consecrated to Apollo the god of mulick, because it was  
said to sing melodiously when it was near expiring. A tradition  
generally received, but fabulous. *Calmet.*
- With untainted eye  
Compare her face with some that I shall show,  
And I will make thee think thy swan a crow. *Shakespeare.*
- Let musick sound, while he doth make his choice;  
Then if he lose, he makes a swan like end. *Shakespeare.*
- I have seen a swan,  
With bootless labour, swim against the tide,  
And spend her strength with over-matching waves. *Shaksp.*
- The birds easy to be drawn are plainpeds, or water-fowl,  
as the mallard, goose, and swan. *Peasam on Drawing.*
- The fearful matrons raise a screaming cry,  
Old feeble men with fainter groans reply;  
A jarring sound refutes, and mingles in the sky,  
Like that of swans returning to the floods. *Dryden.*
- The idea, which an Englishman signifies by the name swan,  
is a white colour, long neck, black beak, black legs, and whole  
feet, and all these of a certain size, with a power of swim-  
ming in the water, and making a certain kind of noise. *Locke.*
- SWANSKIN. *n. f.* [from *swan* and *skin*.] A kind of soft flannel,  
imitating for warmth the down of a swan.  
SWAP. *adv.* [from *swapa*, to do at a snatch, Islandick.] Hastily;  
with hasty violence: as, he did it swap. A low word.  
TO SWAP. *v. a.* To exchange. See TO SWOP.
- SWARD. *n. f.* [from *svärd*, Swedish.]  
1. The skin of bacon.  
2. The surface of the ground: whence *green sword*, or *green  
sword*.  
Water, kept too long, loosens and softens the sword, makes  
it subject to rustles and coarse grass. *Note on Tupper.*
- The noon of night was past, when the foe  
Came dreading o'er the level sword, that lies  
Between the wood and the swift streaming Ouse. *A. Philips.*
- To plant a vineyard in July, when the earth is very dry  
and combustible, plow up the sword, and burn it. *Mortimer.*
- SWART. The preterite of *swart*.  
SWARM. *n. f.* [from *swarm*, Saxon; *swarm*, Dutch.]  
1. A great body or number of bees or other small animals, par-  
ticularly those bees that migrate from the hive.  
A swarm of bees that cut the liquid sky,  
Upon the topmost branch in clouds alight. *Dryden's Zen.*
2. A multitude; a crowd.  
From this swarm of fair advantages,  
You grip'd the general sway into your hand,  
Forgot your oath to us at Doncaster. *Shakespeare.*
- If we could number up those prodigious swarms that had  
settled themselves in every part of it, they would amount to  
more than can be found. *Addison on Italy.*
- TO SWARM. *v. n.* [from *swarm*, Saxon; *swarmen*, Dutch.]  
1. To rise as bees in a body, and quit the hive.  
All hands employ'd,  
Like labouring bees on a long Summer's day;  
Some found the trumpet for the rest to swarm. *Dryden.*
- Swarm'd on a rotten tick the bees I spy'd. *Gay.*
- When bees hang in swarming time, they will presently rise,  
if the weather hold. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
2. To appear in multitudes; to crowd; to throng.  
The mercilefs Macdonel,  
The multiplying villanies of nature  
Do swarm upon. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*
- Our superfluous lacqueys, and our peasants,  
Who in unnecessary action swarm  
About our squares of battle. *Shaksp. Henry V.*
- What a multitude of thoughts at once  
Awaken'd in the swarm, while I consider  
What from within I feel myself, and hear  
What from without comes often to my ears. *Milton.*
- Then mounts the throne, high plac'd before the shrine;  
In crowds around the swarming people join. *Dryden's Zen.*
3. To be crowded; to be over-run; to be thronged.  
These garbions you have now planted throughout all Ire-  
land, and every place swarms with soldiers. *Spenser.*
- Her lower region swarms with all sort of fowl, her rivers  
with fish, and her seas with whole shoals.  
Those days swarmed with fables, and from such grounds  
took hints for fictions, poisoning the world ever after. *Brown.*
4. To breed multitudes.  
Not so thick swarm'd once the foil  
Bedropp'd with blood of Gorgon. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
- SWART. *adj.* [from *swart*, Gothick; *swarte*, Saxon; *swart*,  
Dutch.]  
1. Black; darkly brown; tawney.  
A nation strange, with visage swart,  
And courage fierce, that all men did affray,  
Through the world then swarmed in every part. *F. Queen.*

## S W A

- A man  
Of swarth complexion, and of crabbed hute, *Fairy Queen.*  
That him full of melancholy did shew.  
Whereas I was black and swart before,  
With those clear rays which the infus'd on me, *Shak. H. VI.*  
That beauty am I blist with; which you see,  
No goblin, or swart fairy of the mine, *Milton.*  
Hath hurtful power o'er true virginity.  
2. In Milton it seems to signify black; gloomy; malignant.  
Ye valleys low,  
On whose fresh lap the swart star sparsely looks. *Milton.*
- TO SWART. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To blacken; to  
dusk.  
The heat of the sun may swart a living part, or even black  
a dead or dissolving flesh. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
- SWARTHILY. *adv.* [from *swarthly*.] Blackly; duskily; taw-  
nily.  
SWARTHINESS. *n. f.* [from *swarthly*.] Darknes of complexion;  
tawnyness.  
SWARTHY. *adj.* [See SWART.] Dark of complexion; black;  
dusky; tawney.  
Set me where, on some pathless plain,  
The swarth Africans complain. *Rowe's Remon.*
- Though in the torrid climates the common colour is black  
or swarthly, yet the natural colour of the temperate climates is  
more transparent and beautiful. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*
- Here swarthly Charles appears, and there *Addison.*  
His brother with dejected air.  
Did they know Cato, our remotest kings  
Would pour embattled multitudes about him;  
Their swarthly hosts would darken all our plains,  
Doubling the native horroir of the war,  
And making death more grim. *Addison's Cato.*
- SWASH. *n. f.* [A cant word.] A figure, whose circumference  
is not round, but oval; and whose moldings lie not at right  
angles, but oblique to the axis of the work. *Moxon.*
- TO SWASH. *v. n.* To make a great clatter or noise: whence  
*swashbuckler*.  
We'll have a swashing and a martial outsize,  
As many other mannish cowards have,  
That do outface it with their semblances. *Shakespeare.*
- Draw, if you be men: Gregory, remember thy swashing  
blow. *Shak. Romeo and Juliet.*
- SWASHER. *n. f.* [from *swash*.] One who makes a show of  
valour or force of arms.  
I have observed these three swashers; three such anticks do  
not amount to a man. *Shaksp. Henry V.*
- SWATCH. *n. f.* A swatch. Not in use.  
One spreadeth those bands so in order to lie,  
As barlie in swatches may fill it thereby. *Tupper.*
- SWATH. *n. f.* [from *swade*, Dutch.]  
1. A line of grass cut down by the mower.  
With tossing and raking, and setting on cox,  
Grass, lately in swaths, is meat for an ox. *Tupper.*
- The strawy Greeks, ripe for his edge,  
Fall down before him, like the mower's swath. *Shaksp.*
- As soon as your grass is mown, if it lie thick in the swath,  
neither air nor sun can pass freely through it. *Mortimer.*
2. A continued quantity.  
An affection'd ass, that cons state without book, and utters  
it by great swaths. *Shak. Twelfth Night.*
3. [Spear, to bind, Saxon.] A band; a fillet.  
An Indian comb, a stick whereof is cut into three sharp and  
round teeth four inches long: the other part is left for the  
handle, adorned with fine straws laid along the sides, and  
lapped round about it in several distinct swaths. *Grew.*
- They swaddled me up in my night-gown with long pieces of  
linen, which they folded about me, 'till they had wrapped me  
in above an hundred yards of swathe. *Addison's Spectator.*
- TO SWATHE. *v. a.* [from *swath*, Saxon.] To bind, as a child  
with bands and rollers.  
Thrice hath this Hotspur, Mars in swathing cloaths,  
This infant warrior, and his enterprizes, *Shak. Henry IV.*  
Discomfited great Douglas.  
He had two sons; the eldest of them at three years old,  
I th' swathing cloaths the other, from their nursery  
Were stol'n. *Shaksp. Cymbeline.*
- Their children are never swathed, or bound about with any  
thing, when they are first born; but are put naked into the bed  
with their parents to lie. *Abbot's Descript. of the World.*
- Swath'd in her lap the bold nurse bore him out,  
With olive branches cover'd round about. *Dryden.*
- Master's feet are swath'd no longer,  
If in the night too oft he kicks,  
Or shows his loco-motive tricks. *Prior.*
- TO SWAY. *v. a.* [from *schweben*, German, to move.]  
1. To wave in the hand; to move or wield with facility: as, to  
sway the scepter.  
Glancing fire out of the iron play'd,  
As sparkles from the anvil rise,  
When heavy hammers on the wedge are sway'd. *F. Queen.*